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INCREASE OF SUBSCRIPTION-PRICE OF RHODORA

RHODORA, starting in 1899 with liberal support from several generous members of the New England Botanical Club, was announced as a "monthly journal of botany, devoted primarily to the flora of New England", to be "of about sixteen pages each issue" (192 pp. per vol.) and issued at one dollar (\$1.00) a volume. Actually the journal never lived down to its 192 pages a year. The first volume had 246 pages and 11 plates and the minimum was reached in vol. 22 (1920), with 207 pages and 2 plates. Through the first 34 volumes (through 1932) the size of the journal was maintained at a fairly regular figure, ranging from 207 to 318 (av. 229) pages, with 2 to 19 (av. 7) plates. Nevertheless, with the death of original underwriters of the deficits, it became necessary twice to increase the subscription-price, with vol. 15 (1913) to \$1.50 and again, with much trepidation, with vol. 22 (1920) to \$2.00, although the size of the journal remained approximately the same as in the first fourteen volumes.

Beginning with vol. 35 (1933) RHODORA more than doubled its paging, vols. 35-45 (1933-1943) ranging from 425 to 615 (av. 523) pages, increased its plates sevenfold, these ranging from 35 to 73 (av. 51) per volume, and, through pressure from authors, largely extended its scope. Nevertheless, because of generous aid from living supporters of the journal and bequests from former members of the New England Botanical Club, the subscription-price was still maintained at \$2.00, far below actual cost. Now, however, too late to apply to vol. 46 (1944), the cost of printing has doubled, the cost of engraving increased and the journal is faced with two possibilities: either to reduce its size to that of

the early volumes, with few illustrations, or to make the price somewhat nearer the actual cost above the funds of the sponsor, the New England Botanical Club, and the guarantees from institutions most using the journal. After careful study of the problem, the second alternative has been chosen. It is, therefore, necessary to announce that

BEGINNING WITH VOL. 47 (1945) THE ADVANCE SUBSCRIPTION-PRICE OF RHODORA WILL BE FOUR DOLLARS (\$4.00) A YEAR.—EDS.

SHRUBS OF MICHIGAN.—The Cranbrook Institute of Science has published a very attractive and neatly illustrated handbook on Michigan Shrubs, prepared by Cecil Billington.¹ The book is bound to be interesting and helpful to beginners, for the text is clear and the drawings accurate. After the user has passed the initial stage and begins to be a scientist he will regret that it was decided to take no cognizance of progress (therefore change) in our knowledge of the flora of eastern North America since 1908. In the 36 years following that date the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature have been completely revised, the *homonym* rule now in force necessitating many upsets of once familiar names. Furthermore, this period has seen the most searching and critical study of our flora. The user of the new book will consequently regret that these revisions and corrections of errors have not been taken into account. In fact, the author shows some dissatisfaction and registers a healthy spirit of inquiry on p. 221, when he says: "The nomenclature of the Snowberry is sadly mixed and should be studied and stabilized." Had he checked on RHODORA, xvi. 117-119 (1914) he would have found the record of such study and stabilization with the resultant name *Symphoricarpos albus* (L.) Blake. In fact, the pages of the present journal demonstrate in monographic studies a vast number of necessary changes. In these pages, too, are recorded more than 25 shrubs of Michigan which do not appear in the Cranbrook volume. Their omission is of course covered by the statement in the Introduction, that "This bulletin is not intended as a catalog of every species of shrub which has been described from Michigan." It is hoped, however, that a future edition of an attractive and useful book will recognize the importance of being more up-to-date, that the positive errors of the past will not be further perpetuated and that the admitted "Rare or Infrequent Species", which now include some which are found only on distant Isle Royale, will be liberalized to include from that Island the beautiful *Salix pellita* (see RHODORA, xxvi. 143) and such shrubs of the mainland as *Amelanchier florida*, *laevis*, *huronensis* (type from Michigan), *Rosa michiganensis*, the unique, black-fruited, western North American *Crataegus Douglassii* (wholly distinct from the complex red-fruited series) and the even more isolated and rather startling *Ceanothus sanguineus* (see RHODORA, xvii. 229 and 230, and xxvii. 209 and 210, map 6).

The author and the Cranbrook Institute have made a good beginning. It is surely to be hoped that they will go on from this and recognize the importance of making their book a model by including all the species of the state, by most carefully checking their identities and by bringing the nomenclature to date.—M. L. F.

¹ CECIL BILLINGTON, *Shrubs of Michigan*. Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bull. no. 20. 250 pp., colored frontispiece, 161 line-drawings, 161 maps of local distribution, and illustrated glossary. Cranbrook Institute, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 1943. \$2.50.